

### REMARKS

The present Amendment provides an Abstract of the Disclosure on a separate sheet and modifies the claim format.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently herewith.

The examination and allowance of the Application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 6, 2001

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated December 6, 2001

**Marked-up Claims -**

1. (Amended) Kit for diagnosing disc herniation,  
[characterized in that it comprises] comprising antigens from nucleus pulposus cells  
for determining [an optional] the presence of antibodies to nucleus pulposus.

2. (Amended) [The use of an anti-antibody to antibodies to nucleus pulposus  
cells in the manufacture of a medicament] A method for the treatment of disc herniation  
comprising administering an effective amount of an anti-antibody to antibodies of nucleus  
pulposus cells to a patient in need of such treatment.

3. (Amended) [The use of a false antibody to nucleus pulposus cells in the  
manufacture of a medicament] A method for the treatment of disc herniation comprising  
administering an effective amount of a false antibody to nucleus pulposus cells to a patient  
in need of such treatment, which false antibody is able to bind to and block the antigen in  
such a way that an immunological reaction is inhibited.

4. (Amended) [The use of soluble antigens from nucleus pulposus cells in the  
manufacture of a medicament or a diagnostic means] A method or for the diagnosis or  
treatment of disc herniation comprising administering any effective amount of soluble  
antigens from nucleus pulposus cells to a patient in need of treatment.

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**Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated December 6, 2001**

**Marked-up Claims -**

5. (Amended) [Method] A method for treating disc herniation[, whereby] comprising administering to a patient in need of treatment a therapeutically efficient amount of a compound that prevents the binding of serum antibodies to nucleus pulposus cells to bind to nucleus pulposus.

6. (Amended) [Method] A method for treating disc herniation[, whereby] comprising administering a therapeutically [efficient] effective amount of an anti-antibody to antibodies of nucleus pulposus cells [is administered].

7. (Amended) [Method] A method for treating disc herniation[, whereby] comprising administering a therapeutically [efficient] effective amount of a false antibody to nucleus pulposus [is administered], which false antibody is able to bind to and block the antigen in such a way that an immunological reaction is inhibited.

8. (Amended) [Method] A method for treating disc herniation[, whereby] comprising administering a therapeutically [efficient] effective amount of soluble antigens from nucleus pulposus cells [is administered].

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